

Date: May 7, 1996

BQC-96-022

To: Nursing Homes NH 16  
Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled  
Hospitals  
Home Health Agencies  
Hospices  
Nurse Aide Training Programs  
End-Stage Renal Disease Centers  
Ambulatory Surgical Centers  
Physical/Occupational Therapy/Independent Practice  
Outpatient Rehabilitation Agencies  
Rural Health Centers  
Portable X-Ray Units

FDD 11  
HOSP 11  
HHA 10  
HSPCE 10  
NATP 6  
ESRD 3  
ASC 3  
OT/PT/IP 2  
OPRA 2  
RHC 3

From: Judy Fryback, Director  
Bureau of Quality Compliance

### CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions - Information for Quality Assurance/Improvement

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released a new *Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals* [[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isolat/isolat.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isolat/isolat.htm)]. Although no separate recommendations will be developed for other health care settings, these principles are applicable to all health care providers. If you have a copy of the *draft* guideline published in the Federal Register on November 7, 1994, **it is no longer current and should be discarded.**

The new guideline has two tiers of prevention. The first tier, **Standard Precautions**, blends (or synthesizes) the major features of Universal Precautions and Body Substance Isolation and is designed to be used with all individuals, regardless of their presumed infection status. The second tier, **Transmission-Based Precautions**, is based upon knowledge, or suspicion, of a particular organism and its mode or modes of transmission.

The objectives of the 1996 guideline are to:

- ! Be epidemiologically sound;
- ! Recognize the importance of **all** body fluids, secretions, and excretions (except sweat) in the transmission of pathogens, **regardless of the presence of visible blood**;
- ! Contain adequate precautions for infections transmitted by the airborne, droplet and contact routes of transmission, as well as the blood-borne route;
- ! Be as simple and user-friendly as possible; and
- ! **Use new terms** to avoid confusion with existing infection control and isolation systems that now need to be updated.

Standard Precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens, especially to health care workers, and to reduce the risk of transmission of all pathogens from moist body substances.

When Transmission-Based Precautions are used, due to an identified or suspected infection, they are performed in addition to Standard Precautions. Transmission-Based Precautions are designed to prevent

the spread of pathogens from individuals known, or suspected, to be infected or colonized with pathogens, based upon the modes of transmission of those suspected or known pathogens.

The 1996 guideline represents the collaborative effort of nationwide experts and is based upon current knowledge about disease transmission. However, we ask that you review the guideline in light of what is possible, practical, prudent and necessary and adapt them to fit your operation.

The guideline attached to this memo may be reproduced for use in your education programs. It is not copyrighted even though it was also published in two infection control journals. Additional copies may also be obtained from the National Technical Information Service at a cost of \$25.00 each, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling, by calling (703) 487-4650 (ask for publication PB 96138102). A single copy from the February 1996 edition of the *American Journal of Infection Control* is available for approximately \$17.00 by calling (800) 556-6729 (ask for Customer Service). Copies of the guideline published in the January 1996 edition of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* may be obtained (in minimum lots of 100) by calling (609) 848-1000.

If you have additional questions, Please call Yda O'Kurliand-Pack, Nurse Consultant, Hospital and Health Services Section, at (608) 267-1445, or, if you are a Long Term Care facility, please call your Regional Field Office.

The Regional Offices are:

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819 N. 6th St., Rm. 875	Tony Oberbrunner, RFOD	(414) 227-4908
Milwaukee, WI 53203		

<b>Southern Regional Office</b>	Phyllis Tschumper, RFOD	(608) 243-2374
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<b>Northeastern Regional Office</b>	Dolores Zwiers, Adm. Asst.	(414) 448-5245
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